





*In the moonscape of lava cones atop Hawaii's Mauna Kea volcano, the U. S., United Kingdom, Canada, and France have raised a cluster of observatories. Nearly three miles in altitude, they stand above almost half the earth's atmosphere and 90 percent of its water vapor, excellent for ground-based*



*infrared telescopes. The island location is free from atmospheric turbulence induced by landmasses, as well as light pollution from cities. Logistic support can be shared. A real problem for astronomers, however, is that too few such telescopes are available for the research that needs to be done.*

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*Ice has replaced the fiery breath of Mauna Kea, asleep for 3,600 years. One of its many*

*cones, now sheathed in winter months, draws these skiers for a three-day February meet.*